

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of October 16, 2014**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Charles Shay.

**Roll Call:** Present: Planning Board Liaison/Vice Chairman Thomas Clark, Mr. James Fitzmaurice, Mr. Steven Peterson, Chairman Charles Shay, and Mrs. Roberta Van Anda

Absent: Councilwoman Laura Atwell and Mr. Ross Millhiser

The Chairman declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by the posting and mailing of a schedule of all regular meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission for 2014 to the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Two River Times*.

**Approval of Minutes of August 24 and September 18, 2014**

The minutes of the August 24 and September 18, 2014 meetings were approved after a motion by Mr. Clark, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson.

**Old Business**

**Chairman's Report**

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**Historic Property Catalogue**

Mr. Peterson reported that the sub-committee has studied historic property print-outs from other communities, and much input has been considered. Because time is a factor, it has been estimated that it will be necessary to go over data on about 12 properties per hour. It was noted that this does not permit enough time for analyzing buildings as they should be analyzed. Mr. Peterson suggested that a disclaimer be attached to the first draft that is released indicating that it is a "work in progress" and a rough draft. Once the first draft is completed, input can be considered and clarifications can be made. Mr. Peterson suggested that the first draft be a preliminary spread sheet to fulfil the wish of the

Borough Council to identify the historic homes of the Borough. He also suggested that the document go through attorney review. He suggested that the document be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Discussion brought the suggestion to add two columns to the report. The first would be “NRHP”—the property would be identified as being on the National Register of Historic Properties list. The second would identify a property as being “under review.” It was decided that Chairman Shay will speak to the Borough Council about adding a caveat to the initial spread sheets indicating that the report is a “preliminary first draft” and a “work in progress.”

### **Historic Preservation Commission Website**

The Website sub-committee did not have a report.

### **Communication with Council and Board**

Mr. Clark discussed recent applications heard by the Planning Board regarding the subdivision of properties contained on our historic list. Mr. Clark reported that there is optimism that new plans could save the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century home at 138 Bingham Avenue. There was also discussion of the older home at the corner of River Road and Third Street. It has been purchased by a developer who plans to demolish the 1904 home and create three lots (no variances were needed). The developer plans to preserve the fence and gates along River Road.

In regard to any future demolition of Rumson’s historic properties, Mr. Clark proposed that the Commission begin photographing the properties and recording its history before any demolition takes place. If we can’t save the house, at least we can save the history. Mr. Peterson initiated a discussion of what types of incentives the Borough might consider offering owners of historic properties in an effort to influence their decision to demolish rather than restore. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Clark discussed an upcoming application before the Zoning Board regarding the property at 36 First Street. The discussion centered on the home’s front porch and whether or not the plans called for its removal. Mr. Clark agreed to get more information and report back to the Commission prior to the Zoning Board meeting.

### **Minutes and Agenda to Website**

The Secretary was advised to send the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough website.

### **State Historic Preservation Commission**

Mr. Millhiser did not attend the meeting.

### **New Business**

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday **November 20, 2014 at 6:00 PM.**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM by a motion by Mr. Fitzmaurice seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary